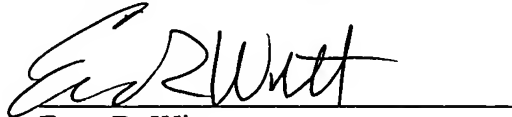


**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

By this amendment, Claim 4 was deleted and Claim 1 was amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 4. Favorable reconsideration of claims 1-3 and 5-42 is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter. The Office Action allowed claims 14-42 and indicated that claims 4, 7, and 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 4. In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-3 and 5-42 are in condition for allowance and request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. R. Witt", is written over a horizontal line.

Evan R. Witt  
Reg. No. 32,512  
Attorney for Applicants

Date: March 14, 2005

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